*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* School Board Letter Assignment

The history of *Huck Finn* being taught and banned in schools is almost as fascinating as Twain’s story itself. Since it’s publication in America in 1885, the novel has been enshrouded in controversy due mainly to Twain’s portrayal of Jim and his relationship with Huck.

For this assignment, imagine that the Gorham School Board is considering banning the novel from being taught in classrooms at GHS. Write an argumentative letter that either supports the banning of the novel or defends its place in the classroom. You need to take a side either way.

The low down on the letter:

* Include multiple quotations from the novel. All quotations must be properly cited in MLA format and analyzed to explain how they support the thesis of your letter.
* Include at least one passage from Jane Smiley’s essay, “Say It Ain’t So, Huck.” All quotations must be properly cited in MLA format and analyzed to explain how they support the thesis of your letter. (Note: you may include a passage from the essay that you disagree with. Explain why you disagree. This can be a strong rhetorical strategy.)
* Include at least one passage from an article you find on the MARVEL database. All quotations must be properly cited in MLA format and analyzed to explain how they support your letter’s thesis.
* The format of the letter SHOULD NOT simply be a five-paragraph essay. Though you do need some kind of introduction and conclusion. Use the format of Smiley’s essay and the essay on Theodore Roethke’s “The Waking” as writing references.
* Use a formal tone in your writing, seasoned with dashes of your casual voice.
* Follow the writing process: Brainstorm > Outline > First Draft > Edit > Revise (x ∞) > Final Draft.
* Be bold in your convictions. Persuade your reader. Take a side and hammer home your points.
* Give this essay the effort a test grade deserves.